Journey of Faith

From the belly of the fish

STORY OF PROPHET YUNUS (A.S.) FOR CHILDREN

SHAHOOD A. SIDDIQUI

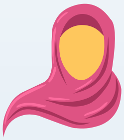
EDITING AND GRAPHIC DESIGN: M. N. MUSHARRAF

Ummul Qura Masjid Project

Our vision for UMMUL QURA MASJID AND COMMUNITY CENTRE (being built at 64 Eva St. Maddington, Western Australia) is that it should be as closely aligned to the model of the Masjid of the Prophet ﷺ as possible. You can also become a part of this great Sadaqa Jariyyah opportunity by spending your time, effort, and money on this noble cause. An overview of some of the planned services from this center are as follows:

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

WEEKEND SCHOOL



WOMEN SHELTER (DAAR AYESHA)

BOYS HOSTEL (IBN AS-SABEEL)

3 PLAY AREAS FOR CHILDREN

YOUTH GYM

BAYTUL HIKMAH LIBRARY

ISLAMIC BOOKSTORE

MARRIAGE CELEBRANTS

CLASSROOMS AND EDUCATION

DAWAH ACTIVITIES AND HALAQAT

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Donations can be sent to: iCAN Trust

BSB: 062-709 | A/C NO.: 1037 6293

Ref: UQCC-WA | BIC/ Swift Code: CTBAAU2S

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Sama-O-Basr

لِوَجْهِ ٱللَّهِ لَا نُرِيدُ مِنكُمْ جَزَآءً وَلَا شُكُورًا

Only for Allah's pleasure! We neither seek reward from you nor thanks.

(Published in Aug 2023 in Australia)

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

CC BY SA

ATTRIBUTION REQUIRED; SHARE-ALIKE

The author and publisher allow this publication to be copied, printed or reproduced as per the provided CC licence. If you wish to publish it, please inform the publisher at: info@icandawah.org

About this book

iCAN considers it extremely important to provide holistic nurturing and development opportunities to children spanning over intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional realms. We have a dedicated department that looks after this highly important task - Young Muslims Network Australia (YMNA). YMNA organises a number of programs and activities across Australia. This book is one of YMNA's contributions toward nurturing our future leaders.

Acknowledgements: iCAN Sama-O-Basr is grateful to Br. Irfan Ikhtiar and Br. Muhammad Hammadullah for proof-reading this book.

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

لا إله إلا الله محمد رسول الله

Foreword

Asalamu Alaikum wrb - Peace and Blessings be upon you!

The story of Prophet Yunus (AS) serves as a guiding light, holding significance context. As we embark on this journey, we want to assure you that the information presented here is sourced from reliable Tafseer and hadith literature. In compiling this book, we have benefitted from the works of great scholars of the past, including Maulana Syed Abul'ala Maududi (RA) as well as shining contemporary scholars, such as Ust. Nauman Ali Khan.

In this journey, we will delve together into the pages of history to uncover the life and mission of this chosen messenger of Allah – Yunus (AS). We will venture into the depths of Nineveh, a city cloaked in idolatry and moral decline. It was here that Prophet Yunus (AS) was divinely commissioned to rekindle the flame of faith and guide its inhabitants back onto the path of righteousness.

The objective of this book is to reflect upon the teachings embedded within Prophet Yunus's (AS) life, and incorporate those lessons into our own lives. As we navigate through the pages, let us approach this narrative with open hearts and receptive minds, poised to absorb the wisdom it imparts. May we emerge from this experience as enhanced individuals, finely attuned to the divine guidance that steers our path.

I invite you to join me as we explore the life and teachings of Prophet Yunus (AS). May this exploration be one of enlightenment, illumination, and self-discovery.

His story encapsulates potent messages of patience, repentance, resilience, and the boundless mercy of Allah. May this journey serve as a conduit for us to draw closer to Allah SWT.

Shahood Alam
Melbourne, 15 Aug 2023

Table of contents

Table of contents

Foreword	05
The Chosen Messenger	09
The Idolatrous City	10
The Struggle for Faith	11
Patience Amidst Rejection	12
The Impulsive Departure	13
In the belly of whale	14
Soulful Repentance	15
Redemption Through Repentance	17
Allah's Mercy Prevails	19
Conclusion	20
Timeless lessons from the Story of Prophet Yunus (AS)	21

Chapter 1

The Chosen Messenger

In a land known as Nineveh, there lived a Prophet named Yunus (AS), chosen by Allah for a profound mission. His story holds deep significance and enduring lessons for believers of all backgrounds. Prophet Yunus's (AS) unique journey and his call to guide the people of Nineveh toward righteousness marked the beginning of a remarkable narrative.

Chapter 2

The Idolatrous City

Nineveh, a city of wealth and civilization, was steeped in idolatry and moral decay. Its inhabitants had turned away from the path of monotheism, indulging in the worship of false gods and material pursuits. Chosen by Allah, Prophet Yunus (AS) was entrusted with the task of awakening their hearts to the truth and rescuing them from their spiritual decline. His mission embodied the message of divine forgiveness and the call to return to Allah's grace.

Chapter 3

The Struggle for Faith

Prophet Yunus's (AS) mission wasn't merely about warning the people of Nineveh about the impending consequences of their actions. It was a call to restore their faith, to tear down the idols that had come between them and Allah, and to rebuild their lives on the foundation of monotheism. His endeavour to rekindle the flame of faith in their hearts serves as an inspiring example of a prophet's (AS) unwavering commitment to guiding his people towards salvation.

Chapter 4

Patience Amidst Rejection

As the people of Nineveh resisted his message, Prophet Yunus (AS) faced the challenges of their rejection and disbelief.. Yet, he remained steadfast, demonstrating patience and perseverance. His resolute determination in the face of adversity showcases the profound responsibility carried by those chosen to deliver Allah's message. His story serves as a reminder that even when met with resistance, believers must remain dedicated to their mission with patience.

Chapter 5

The Impulsive Departure

Tensions escalated as Prophet Yunus (AS) witnessed the city's refusal to change its ways. The people of Nineveh refused to believe him and rejected his message. Prophet Yunus (AS) gave them the news that they would be visited by a scourge after three days. Out of frustration with the disbelievers his judgement got clouded and he took an impulsive decision to leave Nineveh before the three-day notice without waiting for revelation from Allah SWT. He found an opportunity to board a ship, already overloaded though. But this departure from his appointed place resulted in some major trials for him.

Chapter 6

In the belly of whale

During the voyage, it was felt that the lives of the passengers had been endangered due to the overloading. Therefore, lots were casted to select a person to be thrown overboard. The lot fell on the Prophet Yunus 's (AS) name, and so he was thrown into the sea. Before he could do anything to come out, he found himself inside the belly of a massive fish which was waiting for him. He was now isolated from the world. Prophet Yunus (AS) was regretful of his mistake that he abandoned the place of his mission without the permission of his Master, Allah SWT.

Chapter 6

Soulful Repentance

In the depths and darkness of the fish's belly, Prophet Yunus (AS) confronted his impulsive actions and repented sincerely to Allah. His heartfelt prayer acknowledged his mistakes and sought Allah's forgiveness. His dua was as follows:

لَّا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا أَنتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ

There is no god (worthy of worship) except You. Glory be to You! I have certainly done wrong.

Because of his sincere repentance and humble dua, Allah SWT forgave Prophet Yunus (AS) and chose him again for His service.

This dua is so beloved to Allah SWT that anyone who sincerely makes dua with these words, his or her dua is accepted as we learn from various narrations. Also, Allah SWT told us in the Quran: "And this is how we save the believers". There is a lot that we can learn from this ayah in terms of what our approach should be for repentance and how Allah SWT brings the true believers back onto the right path if they deviate from that.

Chapter 7

Redemption Through Repentance

In response to his repentance, Allah's mercy shone through and Prophet Yunus (AS) was released from the belly of the fish, symbolising the power of true remorse and the boundless grace of Allah. The large fish released him out on the shore.

Because of being in belly of the fish, Prophet Yunus (AS) had become frail. Allah SWT made arrangements for him to recover and miraculously grew a tree of gourd-kind for him to eat and benefit from its leaves. This is a type of plant that bugs do not attack; on top of that, this plant has got an immense healing power.

Prophet Yunus (AS) emerged from his trial transformed and humbled. His experience inside the fish's belly had reshaped his perspective, re-enforcing for him the significance of patience, repentance, and submission to Allah's will. This transformation is a powerful reminder of the potential for growth and self-improvement through life's challenges.

Chapter 8

Allah's Mercy Prevails

Let's go back to people of Nineveh and see what happened after Prophet Yunus (AS) left them. History tells us that if a nation disbelieves and denies its prophet and then expresses its faith only upon the arrival of the punishment, their untimely declaration of faith does not benefit them. The only exception to this were the people of the Prophet Yunus (AS). When they searched for their Prophet (AS) and did not find him, and felt that the scourge had approached near at hand, they repented sincerely. Allah's mercy prevailed and they were forgiven.

Allah SWT sent Prophet Yunus (AS) back to his people to guide them; they numbered more than a hundred thousand.

Chapter 9

Conclusion

As the story of Prophet Yunus (AS) concludes, its legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of believers. Just as he persevered through challenges, we too must navigate the complexities of life with faith and reliance on Allah.

Timeless lessons from the Story of Prophet Yunus (AS)

The story of Prophet Yunus (AS), known as "The Man of the Fish," is a treasure trove of timeless wisdom that resonates with believers from all walks of life. This narrative unfolds with invaluable lessons that continue to guide us through our journey.

Here, we delve into these lessons and uncover the pearls of wisdom that gleam from the story of Prophet Yunus (AS).

Lesson 01

Our weaknesses can become a source of our transformation

In a world where believers face trials, doubts, and moments of weakness, the story of Prophet Yunus (AS) remains a timeless source of inspiration. His story is a reminder that our struggles, mistakes, and moments of weakness can all be pathways to Allah's mercy and personal transformation forging a deeper connection with Him and paving the way for self-discovery. Just as Prophet Yunus's (AS) journey continues to inspire, so too does our journey of faith unfold, guided by the enduring lessons of his remarkable narrative.

Lesson 02

Enduring Patience During Trial

Prophet Yunus (AS) teaches us the art of patience amidst adversity. As he faced resistance and challenges during his mission, his unwavering patience acted as a pillar of resilience. Through this, he emerged victorious, demonstrating how patience fortifies our resolve and faith during testing times.

Lesson 03

The Consequences of Impulsiveness

Prophet Yunus's (AS) swift decision to leave Nineveh serves as a caution against acting impulsively. His story teaches us the importance of measured decisions and the consequences of acting without contemplation. A moment's haste can lead to prolonged challenges.

Lesson 04

Trust in Allah's Divine Plan

Amid life's uncertainties, Prophet Yunus (AS) teaches us to entrust our affairs to Allah's wisdom. Even when the odds seem stacked against us, his story reminds us that Allah's timing and plan are perfect. Surrendering to His will leads to peace and eventual triumph.

Lesson 05

Embracing Humility and Self-Reflection

Prophet Yunus's (AS) humility and introspection within the fish's belly mirror the value of self-awareness. Acknowledging our flaws and seeking Allah's forgiveness are pathways to personal growth and spiritual transformation. We all should spend time reflecting about how our life is going, what is the good and the bad in our approach, and what we can do to gain the maximum benefit from the time left with us in this world.

Lesson 06

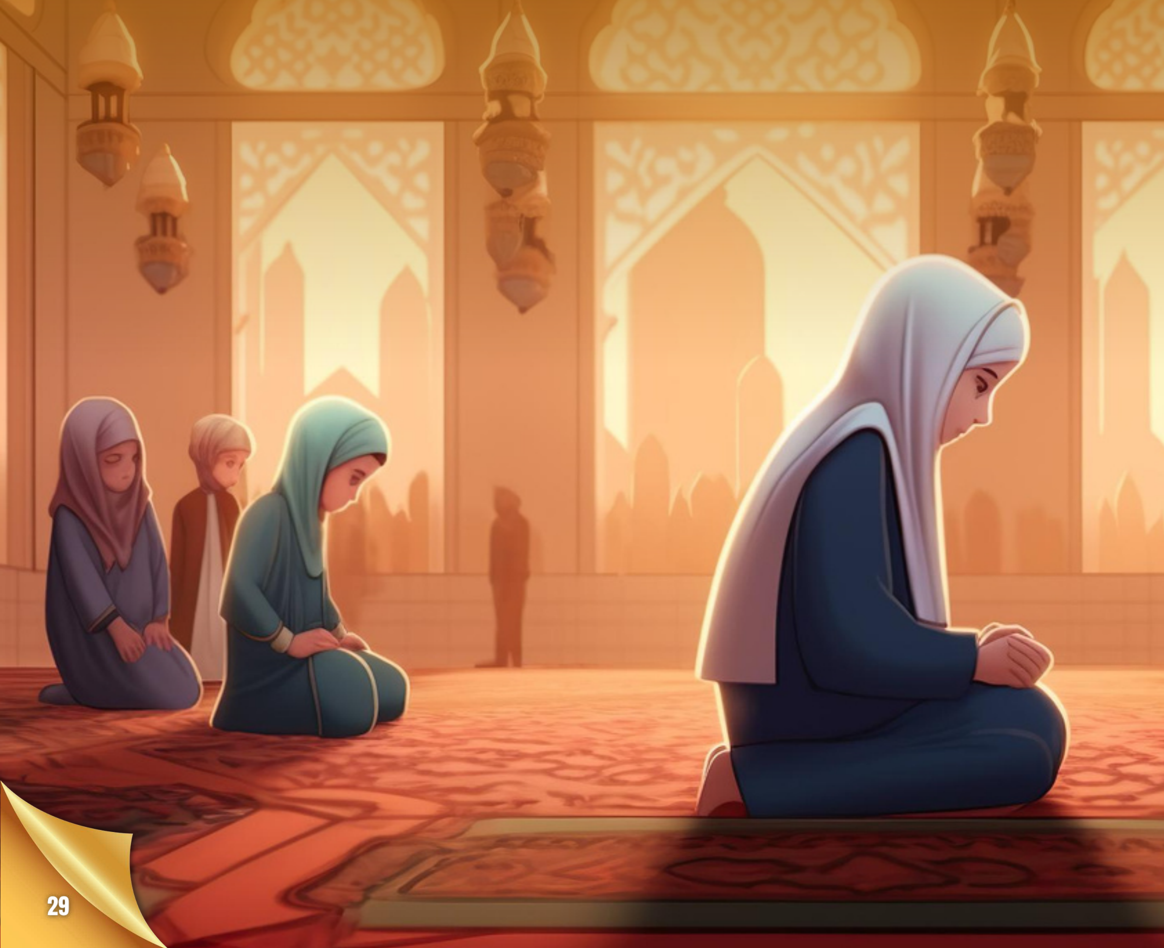
Resilience Amidst Challenges

Rather than giving up and losing hope, Prophet Yunus (AS) turned to Allah in the belly of the fish. This shows us that even when going through tough times in life, Allah is our hope and we should always turn to Him. Steadfastness in faith can overcome even the most formidable obstacles.

Lesson 07

Allah is never far away

In the depths of despair, Prophet Yunus (AS) teaches us that Allah is always within our reach. His fervent supplication from the confines of the belly of the fish underscores that no matter the circumstances, turning to Allah in humility and need invites His assistance. He has all power; he is All Hearing, All knowing. He responds when we call Him.



Lesson 08

Repentance - A Gateway to Redemption

The heartrending prayer of Prophet Yunus (AS) from the belly of the fish illustrates the power of sincere repentance. His plea for forgiveness serves as a profound reminder that no matter the depths of our mistakes, Allah's mercy is boundless and waiting for us to turn back with a repentant heart. Our sincere efforts to seek His forgiveness will always lead us towards redemption and personal growth. All sons and daughters of Adam err; but the best are those who repent.

Lesson 10

Divine Miracles Beyond Natural Laws

The miraculous growth of the gourd tree and Prophet Yunus's (AS) release underscore Allah's power to orchestrate extraordinary events. His sovereignty over creation transcends natural laws, revealing His boundless authority.

Lesson 09

The Boundless Mercy of Allah

The tale of Prophet Yunus (AS) is an embodiment of Allah's infinite mercy. Despite his hasty departure and the trial he faced, his earnest repentance was met with compassion and forgiveness. This assures us that Allah's mercy surpasses our errors, providing solace and hope.

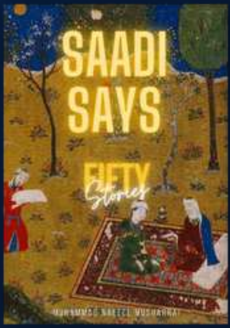
Lesson 10

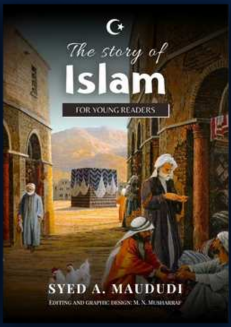
It is never too late to turn back to Allah

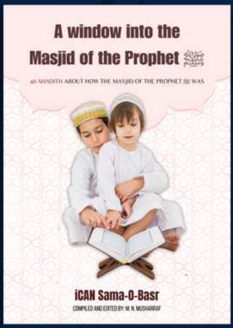
The way people of Nineveh repented to Allah when the punishment upon them was just about to reach and how Allah's forgiveness and mercy engulfed them shows that it is never too late to turn back to Allah. Irrespective of how many sins we have done, the door to turn back to our Rabb is always open. Let's mend our ways and become His dutiful slaves. This story teaches us that genuine repentance and turning to Allah can lead us from darkness to light, guiding us onto a path of healing and mercy.

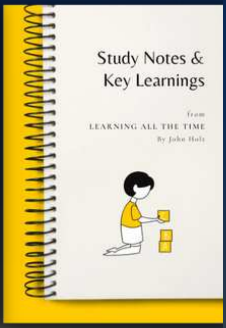
In Prophet Yunus's (AS) journey, believers discover a wealth of lessons that transcend time and culture, shedding light on the road to patience, repentance, trust, and personal development. His story serves as a guiding light, directing us towards Allah's limitless mercy and timeless wisdom.

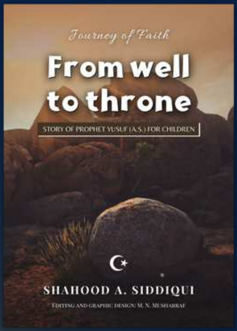
Some of our other publications for parents and children











SAMA-O-BASR

(A project of iCAN)